

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-08 EB-11 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25

NEA-14 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01

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CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI UNN

COMTWELVE S.F. UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2321

CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI FOR HICOM & STATUS LNO

COMTWELVE S.F. FOR AMB. WILLIAMS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, TQ

SUBJ: TTPI: SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION OF MARIANAS

REF: USUN 2173

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE ISSUE OF SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION FOR THE MARIANAS IS NOW UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION. AS PLANS ARE MADE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND FACTORS THAT WILL AFFECT ULTIMATE JUDGMENT IN THE UNITED NATIONS ON TERMINATION OF TRUSTEESHIP.

2. AS REPORTED REFTEL, AT THIS YEAR'S SESSION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL ALL DELEGATIONS EXCEPT THE SOVIETS SEEMED AT LAST TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT THE MARIANAS ARE HEADED TOWARD SEPARATE STATUS. THEIR ACCEPTANCE, HOWEVER, AND SUBSEQUENT APPROVAL OF TERMS OF TERMINATION FOR TRUSTEESHIP, ARE CONTINGENT UPON CLEAR
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EVIDENCE THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS HAVE HAD THE

CHANCE FOR, AND REJECTED, THE STATUS CHOSEN BY THE REST OF MICRONESIA. A PLEBISCITE OFFERING ALTERNATIVES, AND PREFERABLY HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THAT FOR THE REST OF MICRONESIA, SHOULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY EVIDENCE. IF TIMING MAKES THIS IMPOSSIBLE, AT LEAST A SPECIAL REFERENDUM SHOULD BE HELD.

3. AT THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL THIS YEAR WE STATED, AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST, THAT WHILE THE MARIANAS MIGHT BE ADMINISTERED SEPARATELY BEFORE THE END OF THE TRUSTEESHIP, THE U.S. INTENDED TO TERMINATE THE TRUST AGREEMENT FOR ALL OF MICRONESIA SIMULTANEOUSLY. NO FURTHER QUESTIONS WERE ASKED ON THIS POINT, NOR WERE OBJECTIONS RAISED.

4. THUS WE SEE FEW PROBLEMS AT THE U.N. WITH SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION FOR THE MARIANAS FOLLOWING A PLEBISCITE (EXCEPT POSSIBLY WITH SOVIETS, WHO MAY OBJECT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THE CHINESE, WHOSE VIEWS ARE UNKNOWN SINCE THEY HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED). IF, HOWEVER, SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD BE INAUGURATED BEFORE THE PLEBISCITE, EVEN IF REQUESTED BY MARIANAN NEGOTIATORS AND/OR BY DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, WE WOULD FORESEE SERIOUS CRITICISM BY EVEN MOST FRIENDLY TO THE EFFECT THAT THE VOTERS WERE PRESENTED WITH A FAIT ACCOMPLI RATHER THAN A GENUINE CHOICE. THIS WOULD HAVE THE FURTHER DRAWBACK OF GIVING AMMUNITION TO SOVIETS AND OTHERS WHO MIGHT CHOOSE TO OPPOSE THE SEPARATION OF THE MARIANAS UNDER ANY TERMS.

5. SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION FOR MARIANAS WOULD HAVE FAR-FROM ROUTINE IMPLICATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, IF MARIANAS DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, THEY WILL IN EFFECT CLOSE OFF OPTION OF CONTINUING IN UNITED MICRONESIA. THUS ARGUMENT WILL BE MADE THAT SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION IS REALLY POINT OF DECISION, FROM WHICH THERE IS LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF TURNING BACK, AND WHICH SHOULD FOR THIS REASON BE PUT TO THE PEOPLE.

6. WE THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION FOLLOW, NOT PRECEDE, PLEBISCITE OF

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REFERENDUM, IN ORDER TO HAVE UNASSAILABLE POSITION THAT THIS IS THE WISH OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS, NOT ENGINEERED BY US. OTHERWISE, WE FORESEE NEEDLESS AND POSSIBLY COSTLY DIFFICULTIES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, DEPENDENCY GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USUNN02321
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: PER USUN NEW YORK 2049, 5/11/76
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740175-1013
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740779/aaaacptk.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USUN 2173
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 OCT 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TTPI: SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION OF MARIANAS
TAGS: PFOR, TQ, UN, TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005